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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,719	01/26/2004	Jeffrey S. Horrocks	27426 USA	8649
23307	7590	09/03/2004	EXAMINER	
SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER, LLP			MENDIRATTA, VISHU K	
2600 ARAMARK TOWER			ART UNIT	
1101 MARKET STREET			PAPER NUMBER	
PHILADELPHIA, PA 191072950			3712	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/764,719

Applicant(s)

HORROCKS, JEFFREY S.

Examiner

Vishu K Mendiratta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being a by Zivan (6581933).

Zivan teaches similar but different rectangular tokens (30) in different colors (abstract) and at least eight of each (Table 1), a pluralities of bodies (at least 6 bodies shown in Fig.1-2) each with at least four faces 90 degrees apart, rotatable (title) in a common axis of rotation in vertical orientation (Fig.4), bodies having faces with slots (24) for holding of tokens and tokens being transferable from one slot to another due to same dimensions. Further teaches projections (18) and receptacles (27) for rotation.

As can be seen that cards from Fig.1 that cards are positioned in slots by gravity, and easily transferred from one slot to another slot upon alignment. Further Fig.4 clearly demonstrates the projected hatched feature entering into the hatched

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receptacle portion of the body. With respect to method claims Zivan teaches players taking turns and placing tokens in slots and rotating bodies.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zivan.

While Zivan does not expressly indicate cards/tokens having dovetailed edges it is well known in the art that cards and tokens have edges beveled or curved for proper easy handling. While applicant's disclosure does not show criticality for making the edges dovetailed, it would have been obvious to configure such features for well-known reasons. One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have suggested dovetailing, beveling or smoothing edges for easy handling of pieces.

5. Claims 14-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zivan.

Zivan teaches similar but different rectangular tokens (30) in different colors (abstract) and at least eight of each (Table 1), a pluralities of bodies (at least 6 bodies shown in Fig.1-2) each with at least four faces 90 degrees apart, rotatable (title) in a common axis of rotation in vertical orientation (Fig.4), bodies having

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faces with slots (24) for holding of tokens and tokens being transferable from one slot to another due to same dimensions. Further teaches projections (18) and receptacles (27) for rotation.

As can be seen that cards from Fig.1 that cards are positioned in slots by gravity, and easily transferred from one slot to another slot upon alignment. Further Fig.4 clearly demonstrates the projected hatched feature entering into the hatched receptacle portion of the body. With respect to method claims Zivan teaches players taking turns and placing tokens in slots and rotating bodies.

Zivan teaches all limitations except that it does not teach aligning bodies before placing tokens. In order to properly visualize all tokens and slots, it would have been obvious to align bodies. One of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made would have suggested aligning bodies before placing tokens in slots.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishu K Mendiratta whose telephone number is (703) 306-5695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris H Banks can be reached on (703) 308-1745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vishu K Mendiratta  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3712

VKM  
September 1, 2004